

REMARKS

Claims 11, 12, 22-39 remain in this application. Claims 11, 22, 23, 29, 30 and 36 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1-10 and 13-21 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 37-39 have been added to assure Applicant of a fuller measure of protection of the scope to which he deems himself entitled. Claims 11, 22, 23, and 30 are in independent form.

Claims 1-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lacy et al. (the publication entitled "Coding of Moving Pictures and Audio"). Cancellation of Claims 1-10 and 13-21 renders the rejections of those claims moot. Applicant submits that independent Claims 11, 22, 23, and 30, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by Lacy et al. for at least the following reasons.

The present invention is intended to provide certain improvements to information processing techniques for transmitting multimedia data. Moving Pictures Experts Group Phase 4 (MPEG-4) is one example of a technique for transmitting multimedia data. In such techniques, various use limits are often imposed on some or all of the data to attain copyright protection and the like. The present invention is intended to provide improvements to playback control of multimedia data in relation to the protection of intellectual property rights of the transmitted data.

Claim 11 is directed to an information processing method for demultiplexing object streams from a datastream which includes a plurality of object streams. Each object stream has predetermined information, scene description information for synthesizing information contained in the plurality of object streams, and a

management stream including management information for managing intellectual property of the information. The method includes reproducing each information, and synthesizing and outputting the reproduced information on the basis of the scene description information. A discriminating step includes discriminating, on the basis of the management information, an intellectual property management type of information data of at least one of the plurality of object streams. A control step includes effecting reproduction control of the object stream, and controlling, in accordance with a discrimination result in the discriminating step, whether the reproduction control is performed before or after decoding of the object stream.

One important feature of Claim 11 is discriminating (see, e.g., step 202 of Fig. 3) an intellectual property management type of information data included in an object stream, on the basis of management information (e.g., IPMPS-TYPE) included in a management stream, and effecting reproduction control of the object stream in accordance with a discrimination result, to control whether the reproduction control is performed before or after decoding of the object stream.^{1/} By virtue of this feature, reproduction control of information data can be effected more properly since a reproduction control timing point is determined appropriately.

Lacy et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to an overview and applications of MPEG-4 Intellectual Property Management & Protection (IPMP). More specifically, Lacy et al. discusses management data (IPMP) for managing intellectual property of information data (see, e.g., page 5, second paragraph), and extracting digital

^{1/}It is of course to be understood that any references herein to various portions of the present application are by way of illustration and example only, and that the claims are not limited by the details shown in the referenced portions.

watermarks after decoding is performed (see, e.g., page 3, fourth paragraph). Lacy et al., however, fails to teach how such extraction timing is controlled or selected. In particular, nothing in Lacy et al. has been found that would teach or suggest discriminating, on the basis of management information, an intellectual property management type of information data included in an object stream, and effecting reproduction control of the object stream in accordance with the discrimination result, to control whether the reproduction control is performed before or after decoding of the object stream, as recited in Claim 11.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Claim 11 is patentable over Lacy et al.

Independent Claim 22 is an apparatus claim corresponding to Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Independent Claim 23 includes certain features that are substantially similar to certain of those discussed above in connection with Claim 1, i.e., discriminating, on the basis of management information, an intellectual property management type of information data of an object stream; and effecting reproduction control of the object stream and controlling, in accordance with a discrimination result, whether the reproduction control is performed before or after decoding of the object stream. Accordingly, Claim 23 is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Independent Claim 30 is an apparatus claim corresponding to Claim 23, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a

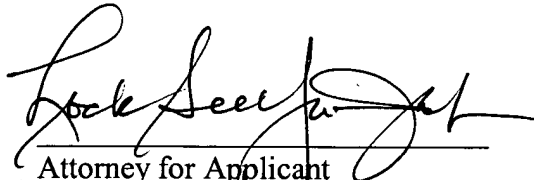
reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant
Lock See Yu-JAMES
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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